

MINUTES OF THE LAFAYETTE COMMON COUNCIL
February 7, 2011
REGULAR MEETING

The Common Council of the City of Lafayette, Indiana met in regular session on Monday February 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 20 North 6th Street, Lafayette, Indiana.

President Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag of our Country.

The following members were present:

Present: Heide, Klinker, Meyer, Cornstuble, Brown, Ahlersmeyer, Weast-Williamson, Downing and Campbell.

The City Clerk stated that there was a quorum present.

City Clerk Cindy Murray and City Attorney Ed Chosnek were present.

Councilman Heide moved to approve the minutes of January 10, 2011 common council meeting, Councilman Brown seconded. There were no additions or corrections. Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Clerk stated there were no Claims, Petitions or Communications.

The Clerk stated the following reports are available in the City Clerk's Office:

Clerk's Office Monthly-December

Water Pollution Control Department Monthly-December

Water Works Department Monthly-December

Police Department Monthly-December

Fleet Maintenance/Motor Vehicle Department Monthly-December

There are No Ordinances for Second Reading.

Ordinances for First Reading:

The Clerk read Ordinance 2011-03 (An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of Tippecanoe County, Indiana-UZO Amendment #72) by title only on first and final reading. Councilman Downing moved for passage, Councilman Cornstuble seconded. Sallie Fahey, Executive Director, Area Plan Commission gave a detailed description of the proposed changes to the areas zoned NB regarding "live entertainment" if the zoning was changed to NBU and the process property owners would have to follow to receive the special exception. Question and answer with council members and Mrs. Fahey ensued. The following citizens spoke in opposition to the ordinance.

Ila Solomon, 416 S, 4th Street

Gail Brock, Ellsworth Romig Neighborhood Representative

Noriko and James Keating, 420 Lingle Ave

Perry Barbee, 3700 Redbud

Stephanie Jones, Lingle Ave

Rick Mckinnis, 440 S. 3rd spoke in support of the ordinance.

Ordinance 2011-03 failed 0-8 on a roll call vote as follows on first and final reading.

Ayes: none

Nays: Heide, Klinker, Meyer, Cornstuble, Brown, Ahlersmeyer, Weast-Williamson and Downing.

The Clerk read Ordinance 2011-04 (An Ordinance for Appropriation of Local Option Highway User Tax Funds-County Wheel Tax-fund #249) by title only on first and final reading. Councilwoman Weast-Williamson moved for passage, Councilman Brown seconded. Mayor Roswarski spoke regarding the Ordinance. Ordinance 2011-04 passed 8-0 on a roll call vote on first reading.

Councilman Meyer moved to set a public hearing for Ordinance 2011-04 for Monday, March 7, 2011 at 7:01 PM, Councilman Brown seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

There are No Resolutions:

There were no Reports of Standing Committees:

There were no Reports of Special Committees:

Report by the Mayor: Mayor Roswarski gave the State of the City Address. See Attached

Miscellaneous and New Business:

Mike Jones, City Controller presented a list of un-reconciled checks per Indiana Code

Mayor Roswarski presented Gary Brouillard a Service Award for his years of service on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Roswarski presented Bob Carpenter an award for his years on the Parking Commission, due to ill health he was unable to attend.

Mayor Roswarski acknowledged Ted Bumbleburg's recent award.

There were no Reports of Council.

Public Comment:

Perry Barbee, 3700 Redbud, commended the street department on snow removal.

President Campbell thanked Dan Crowell, Street Commissioner and the Street Department for all their hard work and dedication during the recent severe weather.

Councilman Brown moved to adjourn Councilman Downing seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Minutes prepared by Cindy Murray, City Clerk

Complete audio of meeting available in the City Clerks office or at www.lafayette.in.gov

2011 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mr. President, members of the City Council, and the citizens of Lafayette, good evening. I am honored and humbled to stand before you tonight and present the STATE OF THE CITY 2011.

It takes many people working together to govern and to move our community forward in a positive direction.

I would like to thank all of our citizens who participate with our neighborhood associations, volunteer for our many community and civic organizations, those who help in our schools, social service organizations and the many community events and activities.

I would also like to thank the Board of Public Works and Safety, the Redevelopment Commission and all the citizens that serve on our many Boards and Commissions.

I thank you, the City Council, for your efforts representing your constituents, your efforts in helping to maintain high quality City services, your unwavering commitment to public safety, support of City projects, all accomplished while being fiscally responsible. These efforts and commitment have been instrumental in our success.

I would also like to thank all the Department Heads and City team members for their outstanding efforts this year. With everyone working together, we have been able to provide high quality services in an extremely effective and cost efficient manner.

Financial Status

At this time, I would like to give the Council an overview of the City's Financial Status. Working with the council, we have lowered the City Civil budget by \$1,801,524.00, in the last two years.

Over the years we have been frugal and careful, wisely using taxpayer funds that we have available. In the face of declining revenues, we have been able to build our rainy day fund.

In 2004, there was slightly over \$11,000.00. Today we have \$2,504,302.42. And we have a reserve in our EDIT fund account as well.

At a time when other communities were laying off Police and Firefighters and cutting back other essential services, we did not.

When other communities were reducing recreational opportunities, we refurbished neighborhood parks, added trails and exhibits at the Columbian Park Zoo.

At a time when other communities began to charge for trash service, we did not. We still provide a high level of services that our citizens expect while living within our means.

Public Safety

Our commitment to public safety has never wavered. For our Police Department, community policing is a top priority. We have also been able to bolster our Street Crime Units, Drug Task Force, Traffic Divisions and other public safety initiatives from our bike patrol, downtown foot patrol, to the implementation of Problem Oriented Policing and StatCom. In 2010, LPD went live with Crimereports.com, another tool to use in cooperation with our citizens. This, along with surveillance cameras and the Nixle System, the Department continues to find ways to use technology to enhance our crime fighting efforts.

The Fire Department continues to be a leader in training, homeland security, community outreach and overall operations.

The Lafayette Fire Department purchased a new inspection program called Code Pal that has increased productivity by 20%. This program has made major improvements in cost savings, customer service, and productivity.

In 2010 the LFD secured funding for mobile computers that will allow firefighters quick access to building plans and layouts on site in emergency situations.

This will benefit both the Fire Department and Police Department to continue to provide the best service possible.

Both of these projects could not have happened without the help of Fairfield Township. They continue to be a great partner for the City of Lafayette and the Fire Department.

Street and Sanitation

Our Streets and Sanitation Department continues to provide high quality, efficient services.

I believe our sanitation and recycling is second to none. Even in challenging times, we pick up trash once a week, along with recycling, leaves, limbs, and large items all without charging extra fees.

Our Sanitation and Street staff does an outstanding job giving our citizens great service with a personal touch.

Technology

2010 was a year of technology and infrastructure improvements that position the City of Lafayette for long term success and growth.

Fiber optic networks were extended to the Columbia Street Parking Garage, Hanna Community Center, McAllister Recreation Center and the Lafayette Street/Sanitation and Traffic Improvement departments.

The fiber connections to the Lafayette Street/Sanitation and Traffic Improvement departments eliminated a T1 data line and a \$260 monthly recurring fee, saving \$3,120 annually.

This increased our network speed over 100 times.

This high speed network allows the Traffic Improvement Department to manage the new traffic signal system throughout the City to increase traffic flow and lessen delays.

A new fiber switch connecting all City departments and other select locations was recently installed. This switch provides “carrier class” reliability and performance in addition to growth potential.

This new equipment positions the City for technology advancements well in to the future.

The Information Technology Department continues to cut costs by reducing our annual software licensing expenses from \$36,000 to \$13,069, saving 64% since 2009. We will continue paying the reduced licensing fees through 2013.

Public Works

Along with ensuring public safety, a vigorous and aggressive Public Works program is vital for a healthily community that meets the demands and expectations of its citizens.

The Lafayette Hearing Authority continues to lead the way to ensure neighborhood stability and revitalization.

In 2010 there were 104 unsafe structure inspections resulting in three orders for demolition.

But the real success was that 46 complied, making the necessary repairs ensuring safe, viable properties that contribute to their neighborhood and the community at-large.

2010 was also a year of major infrastructure projects that addressed both long standing needs as well as more recent ones as our city grows and prospers.

Chief among those was the completion of Veterans Memorial Parkway.

Formerly County Road 350 South, this once rural two lane roadway is now a four lane modern boulevard and a complete street accommodating not only the high volume of vehicle traffic from a growing area but pedestrians, runners and bicyclists safely and efficiently.

The reconstruction of this roadway also gave us the opportunity to rename the road and honor America's and Greater Lafayette's war and military veterans in all divisions – Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard.

The dedication and honoring of those providing military service to protect us all in times of peace and conflict was one of the greatest highlights of the year.

I would like to thank Cindy Murray and the Mayor's Youth Council for helping make this dedication possible.

And I would like to do so again by all of us giving them a round of applause.

Other significant road projects included the reconstruction of Concord Road from Brady Lane to Veterans Memorial Parkway.

Overall:

- More than nine miles of roads were paved,
- 5,716 feet of sidewalk and
- 3,664 feet of curb and gutter were replaced and
- 22 handicapped ramps were constructed.

Additional notable Public Works Projects include Munger Trail, which added one mile of hiking and biking trails to the system, connecting the park and surrounding neighborhood areas.

A new traffic signal and sidewalk at Commerce Drive and Park East Boulevard was completed so that residents can get from Fairington Apartments to adjacent retail safely and securely.

Main Street reconstruction and repaving was accomplished and the completion of interconnecting 61 traffic signals with radio controls that will allow for more efficient flow of traffic and shorter wait times. More road projects are planned in 2011, such as the Maple Point Drive Extension, Earl Avenue, Creasy Lane and others. Many of these projects leverage local funds with state and federal grants and programs to stretch our dollars further and complete more projects.

Community and Economic Development

The Community and Economic Development Departments completed and advanced many projects to enhance and improve the quality of life for Lafayette's citizens.

Among them was using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to support needed community services for the disadvantaged, elderly and disabled.

These funds are also used to replace sidewalks and curbs and other improvements such as neighborhood parks.

HOME funds were used to further affordable housing and historic preservation through organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Weed and Seed program, in its fourth year, is helping reduce crime in the City's center and seeding the community with programs to reduce crime and provide supportive housing to those who need a hand up to self-sufficiency and away from crime, drugs and other problems.

Supporting, stabilizing and improving neighborhoods are the hallmark of Community Development, and my administration places high priority on supporting neighborhood associations and their projects to improve the community.

The Community and Economic Development staff continued their work in the Glen Acres and Vinton Neighborhoods by rehabbing and building 11 new homes that will be sold to new home buyers.

And now that the Bridgeway Apartments and all of their problems are fading from memory, the new Chatham Square is rising in its place.

This walkable, pedestrian and environmentally friendly development will include 89 apartment units, reflecting the best of Lafayette's architecture and design, with 10 single family homes that will contribute to the neighborhood and Lafayette.

In these challenging economic times, we have doubled our efforts to assist existing business succeed and attract new ones to the community. Building on the success of the partnership between Subaru and Toyota, we were able to help facilitate a further expansion and model change for Toyota that resulted in a \$42 Million investment in new equipment. With the growing success of Subaru and its models, the City helped facilitate an investment of nearly \$2 Million in building improvements and \$37 Million in new equipment. Subaru Automotive of Indiana is now at an all time high employing over 3,600 employees. Working with Greater Lafayette Commerce we continually market the community as the place of choice for business and industry.

The Lafayette Redevelopment Commission has used city funds wisely, and judiciously invested in economic development and infrastructure in such projects as the reconstruction of Veterans Memorial Parkway, Concord Road and downtown streetscape on 2nd Street, among others.

This streetscape redevelopment also included public art, with three new pieces being added for public enjoyment.

These projects and others were done without the added expense of bonding and debt, being fully paid from existing revenues.

With expansion of public safety efforts and the police department, offices became over crowded at City Hall. Instead of incurring a costly expansion of the existing City Hall building or building a new facility, we chose to purchase and rehabilitate a vacant building in downtown and put it back into productive use.

This building at 515 Columbia now houses the Community and Economic Development Departments and will allow the police and other departments at City Hall to expand and provide additional service to the citizens of Lafayette.

515 Columbia is designed to modern—as well as LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—standards that will reduce energy consumption and lower operating costs, saving money over many years to come.

Water, Wastewater Treatment

In 2010 the City completed the Pearl River CSO Tunnel Project.

As part of the City's long term plan to address Combined Sewer Overflows, this innovative project dramatically reduces untreated sewage overflows to the Wabash River and conveys more flow to the wastewater treatment plant for complete treatment.

The tunnel, measuring 2,300 ft long and 9 ½ ft diameter, was a first for a City our size, and with the success of Lafayette's project, other cities are investigating tunnels as alternatives for addressing Combined Sewer Overloads.

By opting for this trenchless construction approach, the City was able to minimize disruptions to downtown businesses and traffic.

This project eliminated one CSO outfall and has reduced the untreated sewage discharges to the Wabash River by 35%, or over 237 million gallons since the tunnel came on line in April 2010. The tunnel emphasizes the City's dedication and leadership in addressing environmental concerns. The significant added storage capacity of the new tunnel will help to improve the water quality of the Wabash River, one of the city's most vital assets.

This project also provides the city with an enhanced infrastructure that will be able to accommodate continued residential, commercial and industrial growth well into the future.

The Tunnel Project was selected as an Honor Award Project by the American Council of Engineering Companies and is eligible for the Grand Project Award which will be announced in March 2011. The City also continually addresses ways to minimize operational costs to keep excellent service.

This is demonstrated in the Aeration Blower System Improvement Project. In this project, the City was able to purchase a high efficiency blower for the wastewater treatment plant.

This new blower is expected to reduce the energy consumption of the treatment plant by over 22% and reduce costs by approximately \$128,000 per year.

Sustainable projects such as this will position the City for continued growth while keeping expenses in check.

Addressing citizen needs is also a continuing process for the City.

In 2010, the City completed work on the Orchard Heights Sanitary Sewer Realignment project. This project addressed drainage issues and the protection of our citizen's health and well being.

Projects such as this will continue to be a high priority to the City, along with addressing environmental needs and being fiscally responsible.

In early 2010, Lafayette Water Works purchased approximately 15 acres of land that was originally part of the former Aretz airport to be developed as a well field.

We should reasonably expect to be able to produce between five and eight million gallons of water per day from this site.

This will help supply a reliable source of safe drinking water for Lafayette's citizens and also help support business and industry to expand and locate in Lafayette along the Hoosier Heartland Corridor.

The Waterworks Department also completed their large meter replacement program.

By replacing obsolete compound meters, which have many moving parts, we now have state of the art meters that have only one basic moving part, increasing efficiency and reliability.

The yield from this change has been phenomenal with its return on investment less than two months. By doing this we keep our unaccounted for water to a minimum.

In addition, Waterworks has been continuing to install radio read meters, which has increased efficiency and their bottom line.

Lastly, Waterworks installed a large storage tank and are now purchasing liquid chlorine in bulk at our Glick water treatment facility. This saved approximately \$27,500 over the course of the year.

Because of these measures and others, water rates haven't increased in ten years.

CONCLUSION

The reality is this presentation could continue for the next several hours. The magnitude of what has taken place, what is underway and what we are now planning for the future is remarkable. I truly believe our best days are yet to come. Thank-you and may God Bless the City of Lafayette.